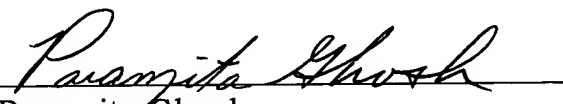


It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. In the event it is determined that a fee is necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit the undersigned's deposit account number 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Paramita Ghosh
Registration No. 42,806

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Dated: January 17, 2001